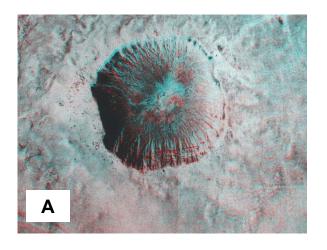
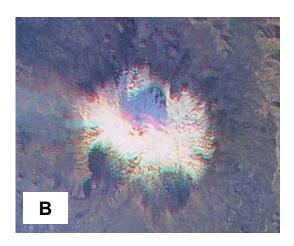
Resources for The Moon: Cosmic Decoder Ring

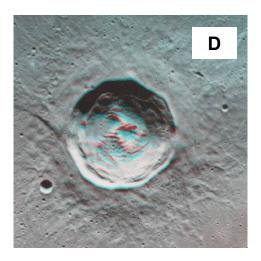
Volcano or Impact? Activity

Use 3D glasses to decode the images below. Were these craters formed by volcanoes or by asteroid impacts?









It can be difficult to tell them apart. Both volcanoes and impact craters may have a high region in the center (a volcanic dome or an impact peak), and their rims can be higher than the surrounding area. One important difference is that the floor of an impact crater is lower than the ground surrounding the crater, while the bottom of a volcanic crater is still higher than the terrain.

Answers:

Asteroid impact craters are shown in pictures A and D (a few small craters can be seen in picture C). Volcanic craters are shown in pictures B and C.

Websites for Further Exploration

Impact Craters Slide Set

www.lpi.usra.edu/publications/slidesets/craters

These pages include detailed descriptions, background, and images of craters on the inner planets and moons. The text is written for adults.

NASA's Moon Website

moon.nasa.gov

This website offers information about Earth's Moon including an interactive Moon globe, news about the Moon, lunar missions, a gallery of images, facts and figures, and other resources.

Lunar Science and Exploration Posters

www.lpi.usra.edu/education/moonPosters

This series of three posters from the LPI provides a detailed description of what past and current lunar exploration has taught us about the Moon and how to prepare for future missions to the Moon.

Lunar South Pole Atlas

www.lpi.usra.edu/lunar/lunar-south-pole-atlas

NASA has been directed to land astronauts at the lunar south pole by 2024. To assist NASA and the lunar community, the LPI has compiled an online atlas that consists of a series of maps, images, and illustrations of the south polar region.